

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to FIGS. 1-11, and add FIGS. 8a and 11a. These sheets replace the original sheets. In general, the hand drawn portions of the drawings were made formal by removing erasures, alterations, overwriting, interlineations, folds and copy marks. Additionally, omitted and incorrect reference numbers were attended to. Further, hatching, shading and the like were added or removed to enhance viewability of the drawings. Finally, FIGS. 8a and 11a respectively detail a portion of FIGS. 8 and 11 in order to relieve crowding of the reference numbers.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Enclosed is a Declaration executed by the Applicant and the appropriate surcharge as set forth in 37 CFR 1.16(e).

Replacement drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.84 and 37 CFR 1.121 are enclosed. The attached sheets of drawings include changes to FIGS. 1-11, and add FIGS. 8a and 11a. These sheets replace the original sheets. In general, the hand drawn portions of the drawings were made formal by removing erasures, alterations, overwriting, interlineations, folds and copy marks. Additionally, omitted and incorrect reference numbers were attended to. Further, hatching, shading and the like were added or removed to enhance viewability of the drawings. Finally, FIGS. 8a and 11a respectively detail a portion of FIGS. 8 and 11 in order to relieve crowding of the reference numbers. The redrawn portions of the drawings are highlighted in red.

Applicant believes that the enclosed Declaration and replacement drawings are in compliance with the applicable rules. Accordingly, Applicant believes that all required items have now been filed.

In the specification, all paragraphs have been amended to correct minor editorial problems and to include paragraph numbers. These errors are grammatical, add or correct reference numbers, and the like.

Claims 1-15 have been canceled. Claims 16-35 are newly presented.

No new matter has been added in the specification, drawings or claims.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request that this Preliminary Amendment be entered.

Also enclosed herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS"). As this Information Disclosure Statement is being provided within three months of the filing date of the application, pursuant 37 CFR § 1.97(b)(1), no fee is required.

The attached PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B forms are incorporated as part of the Information Disclosure Statement. A copy of each cited document is enclosed herewith.

Applicant submit herewith patents, publications, or other information of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56.

While this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication, or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

Appl. No. 10/620,146
Preliminary Amdt. dated Dec. 10, 2003
Reply to Missing Parts of Oct. 10, 2003

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(b), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(a) exists.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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Attachments

Fig. 1

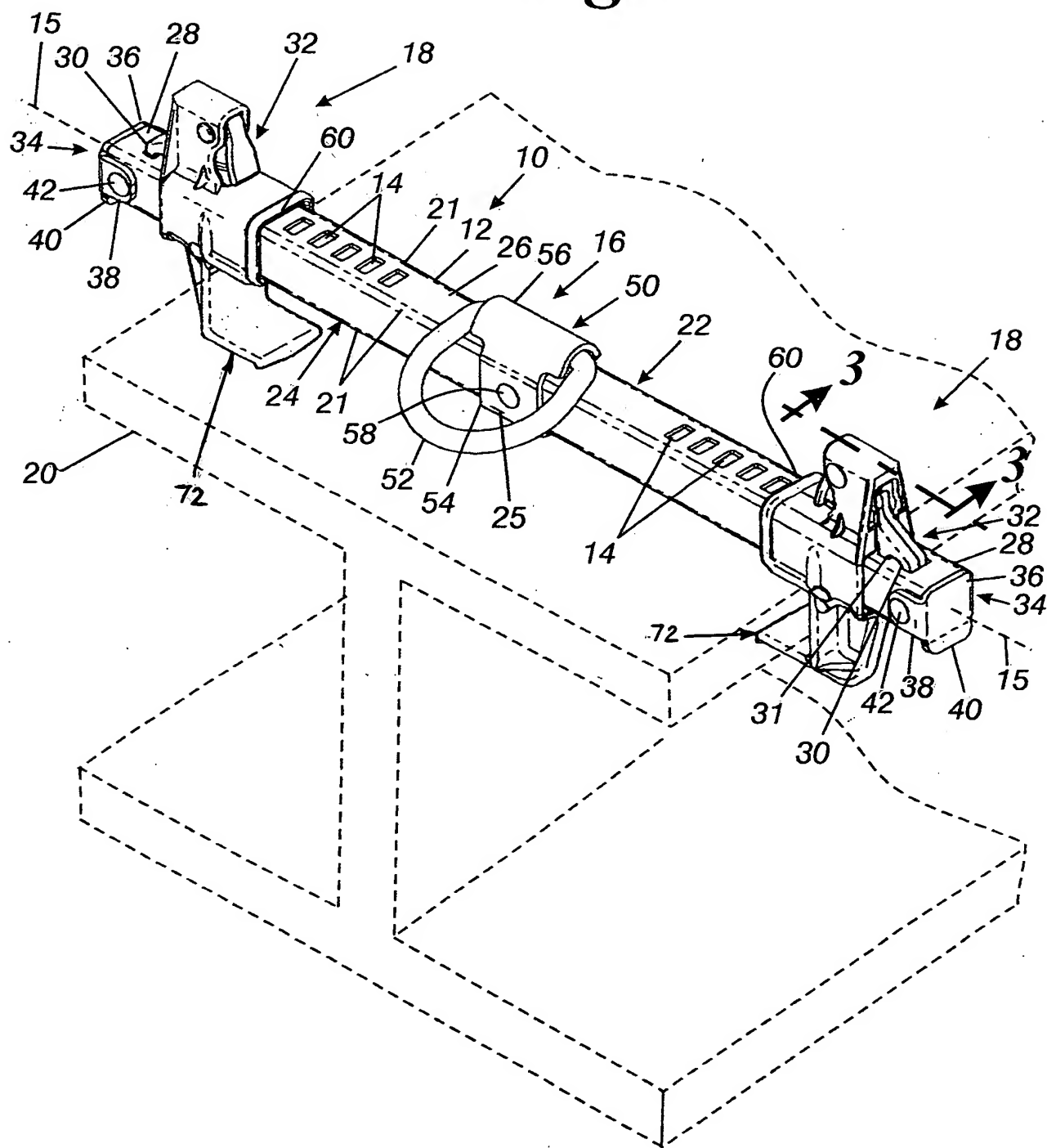
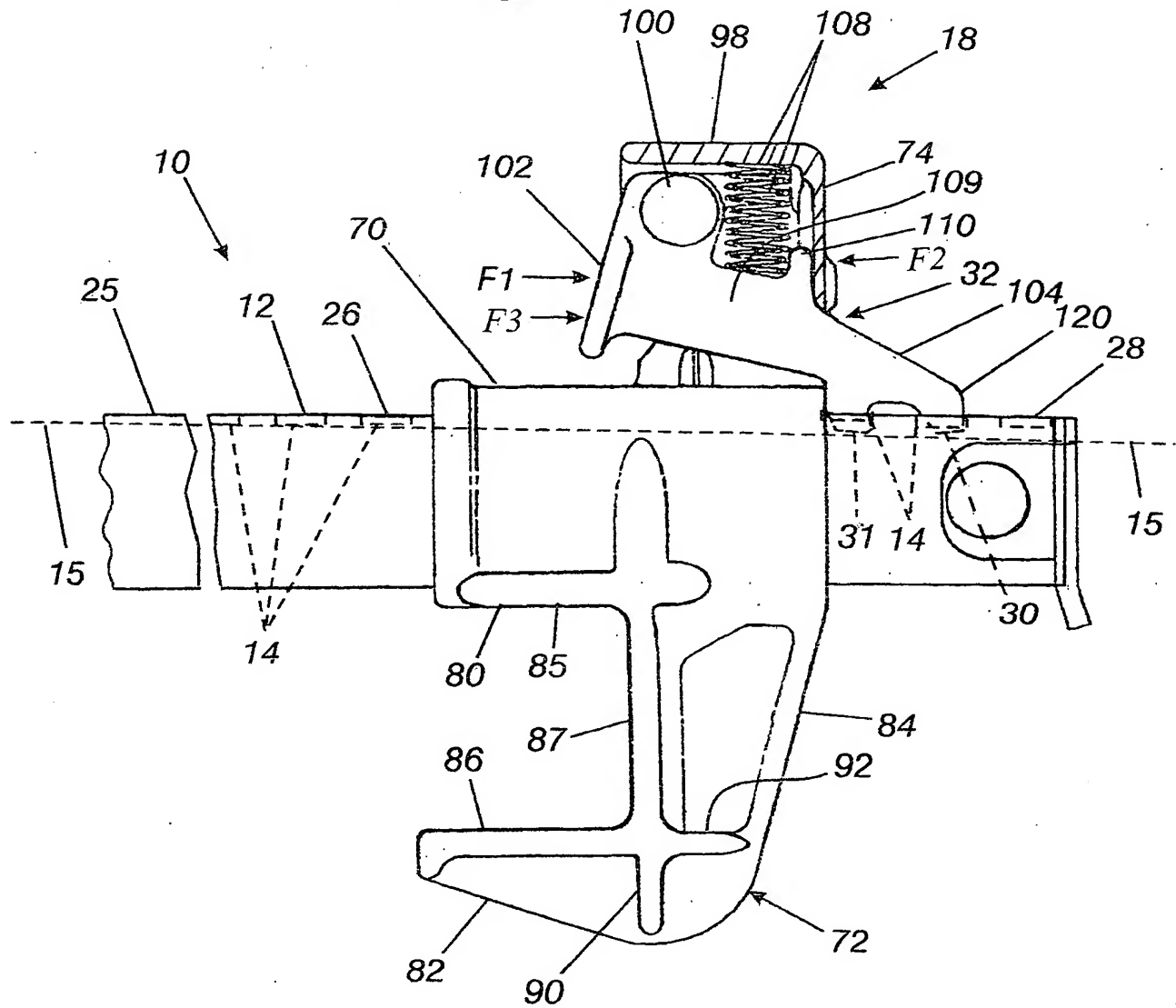


Fig.3



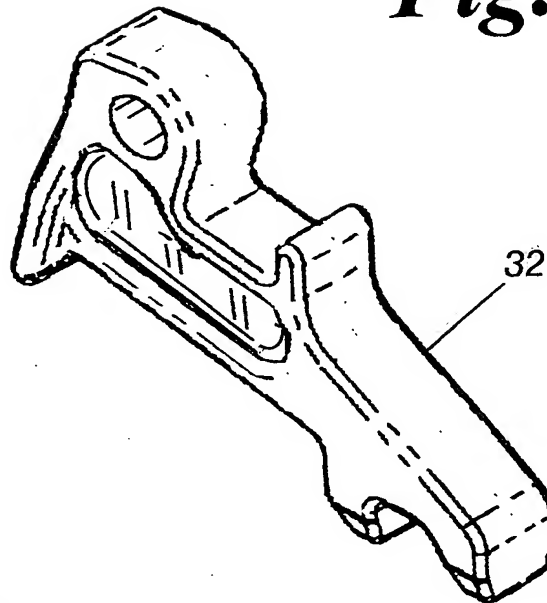


Fig.5

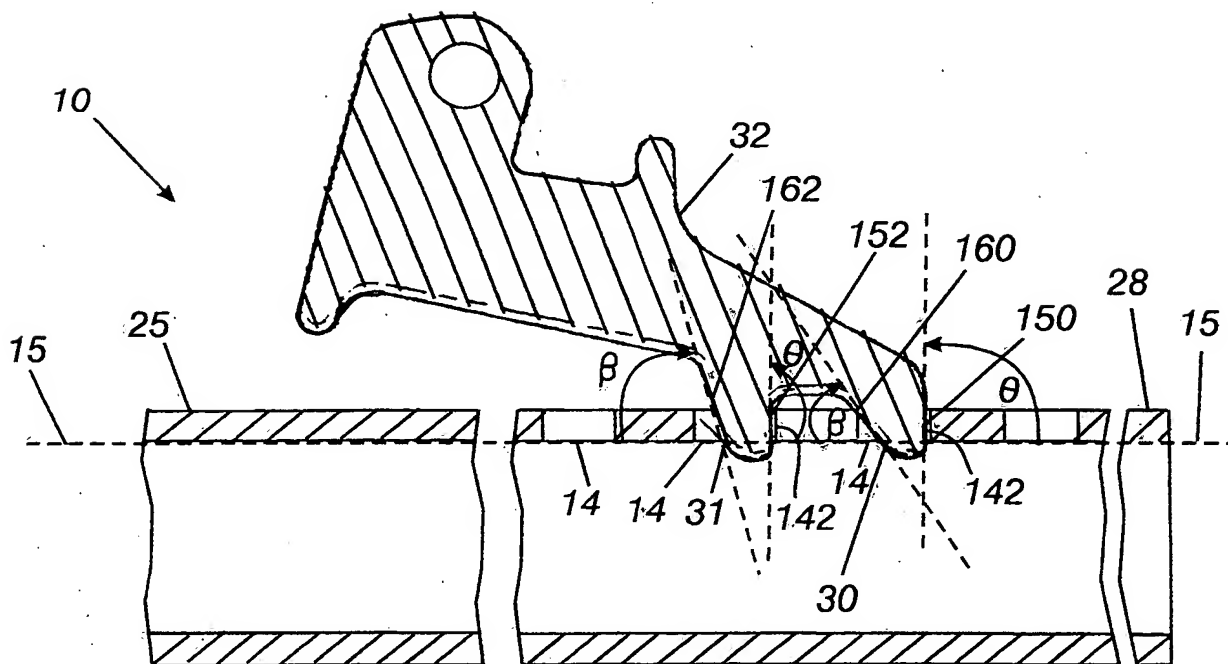


Fig. 6

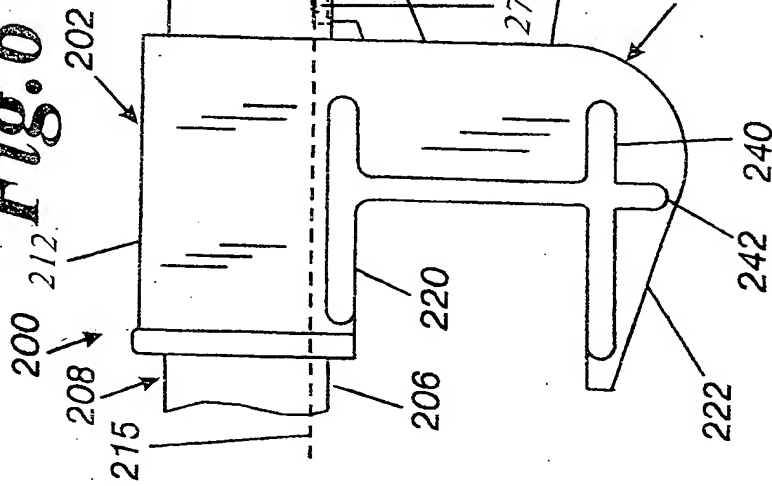


Fig. 8

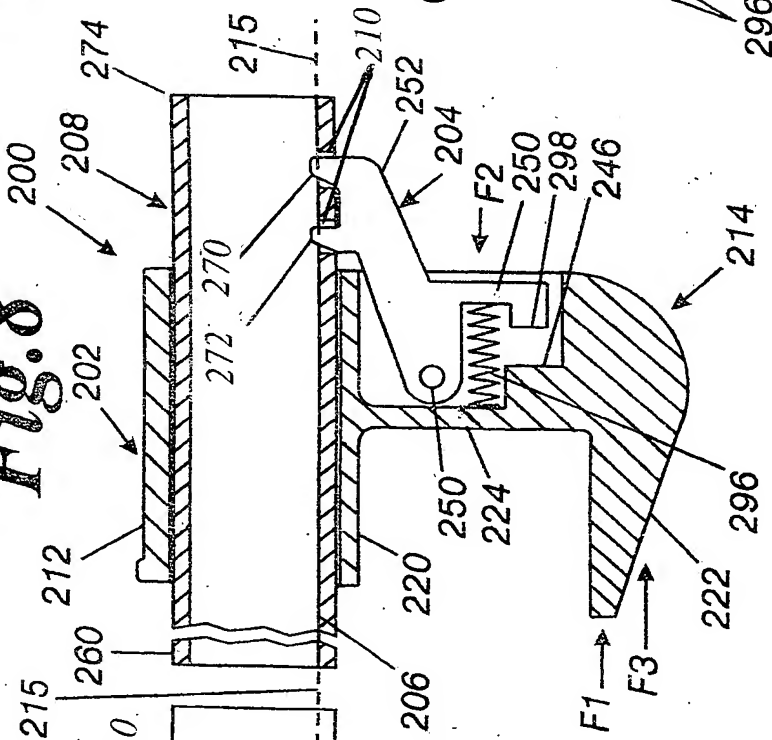


Fig. 7

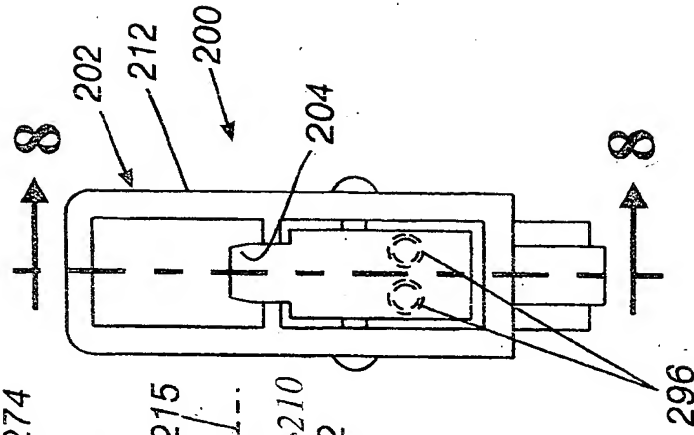


Fig. 8a

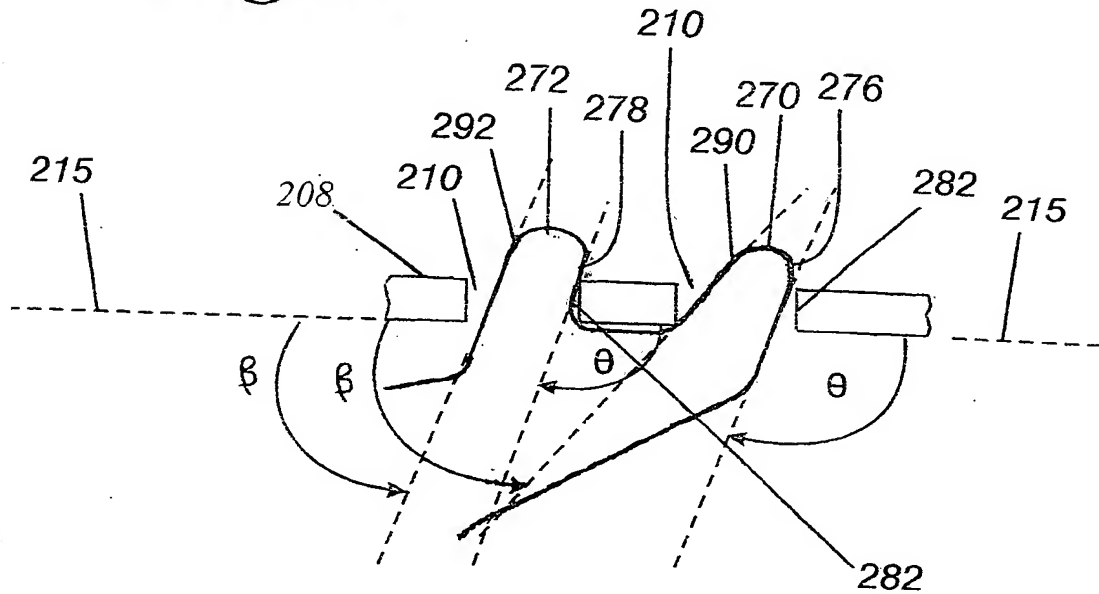


Fig. 11a

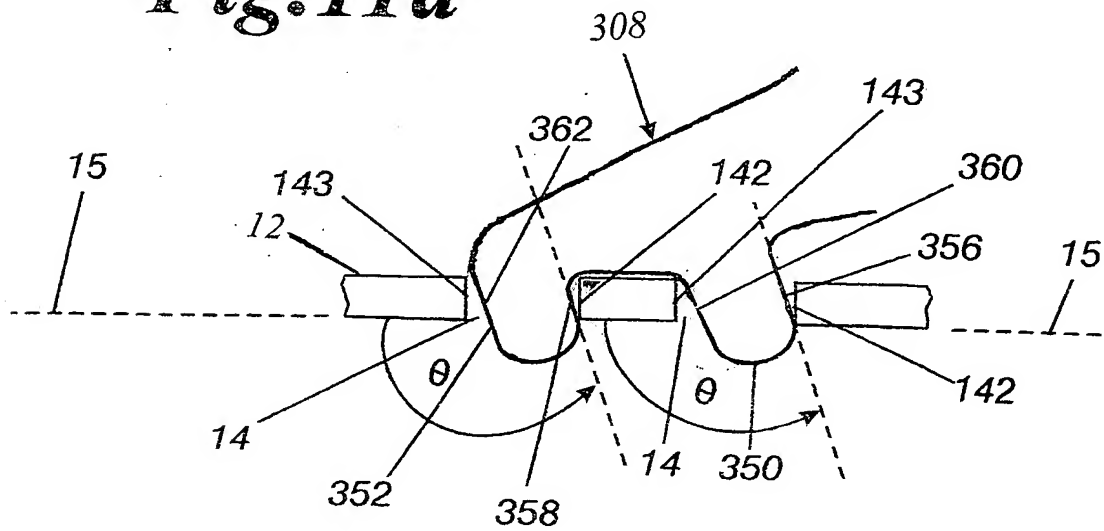


Fig. 9

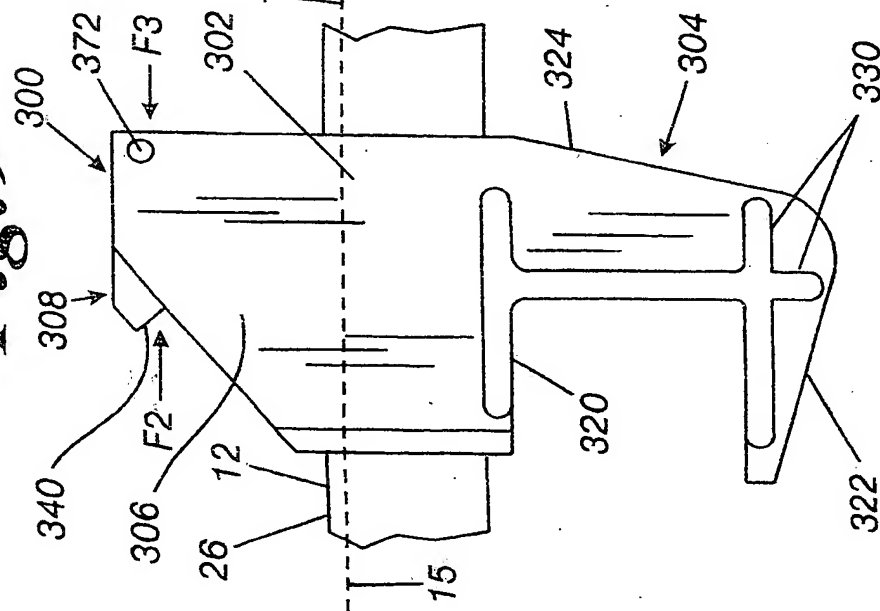


Fig. 11

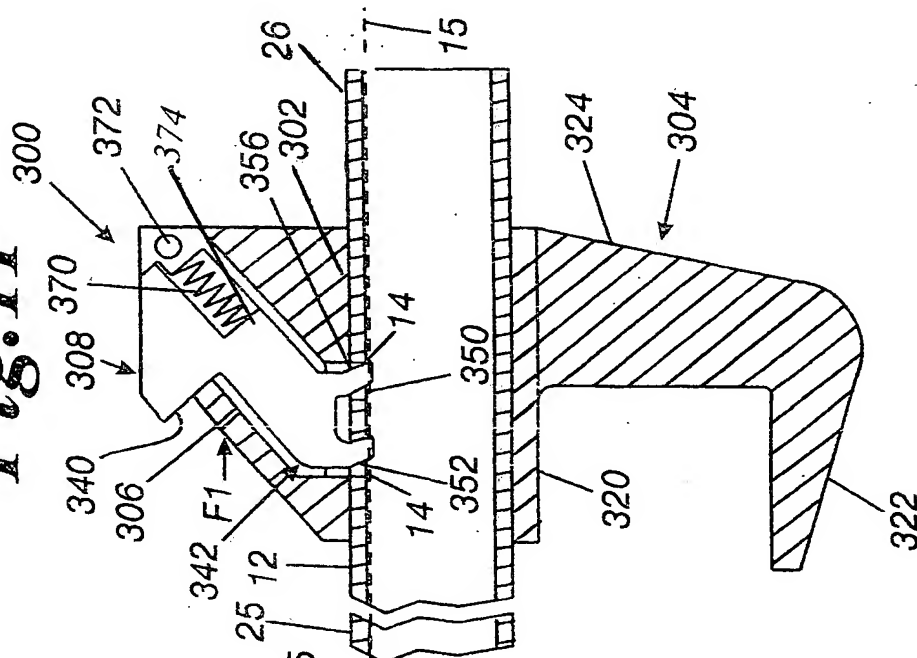


Fig. 10

